PETITION of the Oxford Canal Company,

AGAINST THE

GRAND JUNCTION CANAL.

Extracted from the VOTES of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

Mercurii, 2° Die Januarii, 1793.

A PETITION of the COMPANY of Proprietors of the OXFORD CANAL NAVIGATION was preſented to the Houſe, and read; ſetting forth, that the Petitioners obſerve, by the Votes, that Application is making for an Act for forming a Navigable Canal from the ſaid OXFORD CANAL NAVIGATION, at *Braunſton*, in the County of *Northampton*, to unite with the River *Thames*, at *New Brentford*, in the County of *Middleſex*, with certain Collateral Cuts to branch out of the ſame; and that it having been judged expedient, early in the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, that, with a View of facilitating the Trade between the Northern Counties and *London*, and of ſupplying Coals to Parts of *Warwickſhire*, *Northamptonſhire*, *Buckinghamſhire*, and *Oxfordſhire*, and eſpecially the Univerſity and City of *Oxford*, then in Want of that Article, a Navigable Canal ſhould be made from the *Coventry* Canal, at a Place called *Longford*, in the County of *Warwick*, to the ſaid City of *Oxford*, a Plan was formed for that Purpoſe with the Aſſiſtance and Advice of the moſt expert Engineers of that Time, among whom was the celebrated Mr. *Brindley*, and ſuch Plan receiving the Approbation of Parliament, Three Bills have paſſed the Legiſlature, one in 1769, for making and maintaining the ſaid Canal, another in 1775, and another in 1786, for furthering the ſame Object; and that, on the Faith, and under the Sanction, of thoſe Three ſeveral Acts of Parliament, the Petitioners have perſevered with every Exertion to complete the ſaid Undertaking, and have expended thereon (incluſive of Intereſt Money advanced and allowed upon the Calls paid by the Subſcribers) the Sum of £.307,000, and upwards, of which the Sum of £.130,000 has been borrowed under the Authority of the ſaid Acts on the Credit of their Tonnage: That, antecedent to the Year 1786, the Profits of the ſaid Canal were not equal to the current Expences; that, in the Year 1789, the Petitioners divided the Sum of Three Shillings and Eleven Pence *per Cent.* in the Year 1790, £.1 2*s.* 6*d. per Cent.* and, in the Year 1791, £.2, *per Cent.* ſince which Time they have made no Dividend whatever, but have Reaſon to hope and expect that a Dividend of £.2, *per Cent.* will ſoon be made for the laſt Half Year, ending at *Chriſtmas*; and that they are now juſt emerging from the various Difficulties they have had to encounter, and beginning to reap the Fruits of the Labour and Expence they have beſtowed on the ſaid Undertaking, which was projected with the beſt Advice that could then be had for the Public Good, and has been conducted on the moſt liberal and diſintereſted Principles; and that the making of a Canal as above mentioned from *Braunſton* to *New Brentford* would be the Means of diverting from the Petitioners a very great and eſſential Portion of that Traffic, and of thoſe Advantages which the Company looked forward to, and of which they promiſed themſelves a permanent and undiſturbed Enjoyment when they began their ſaid Undertaking, and, therefore, that the ſaid projected Canal would, if effected, be productive of Conſequences greatly injurious to the Petitioners; and therefore praying, that they may be heard, by their Counſel, againſt any Bill that may be brought in for making a Navigable Canal from *Braunſton* to *New Brentford* aforeſaid, and that the ſame may not paſs into a Law.

ORDERED,

That the ſaid Petition do lie upon the Table, until the Bill for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the *Oxford* Canal Navigation at *Braunſton*, in the County of *Northampton*, to join the River *Thames* at *New Brentford*, in the County of *Middleſex*, and alſo for making and maintaining certain Collateral Cuts from the ſaid intended Canal, be read a ſecond Time, and that the Petitioners be then heard, by their Counſel, againſt the ſaid Bill, upon their Petition, if they think fit.

SIR, *Oxford, January* 11, 1793.

Purſuant to a Reſolution made by the Company of Proprietors of the Oxford Canal Navigation at an adjourned General Meeting, holden at the Star Inn, in the City of Oxford, the 10*th Day of January Inſtant, I ſend you the above Petition.*

JOHN WALKER, Clerk.

LSTC